

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT STATE 134627 SENT ACTION USUN JUNE 13, 1975

QUOTE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 134627 ACTION LONDON 10 JUNE.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: UN, EGEN, UK

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON DEALING WITH REFERENCE TO CERDS
- AND NIEO RESOLUTIONS IN VARIOUS UN FORUMS

REF: STATE 133602

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM GAVE UNDER SECRETARY
MAITLAND AN EARLIER DRAFT VERSION OF REFTTEL DURING LATTER'S
CALL ON MAY 7, EXPLAINING THIS WAS AN UNCLEARED DRAFT BUT
INDICATING OUR INTEREST IN HAVING UK'S REACTIONS. (WHILE
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FINAL TET WAS SOMEWHAT REVISED, MAIN SUBSTANCE REMAINED

ESSENTIALLY THE SAME.)

2. ON JUNE 3 BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED TO GIVE US
INITIAL REACTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) MINISTRY IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH OUR CONCERN
OVER THIS PROBLEM AND WITH THE NEED TO ELIMINATE TIME-
CONSUMING DISCUSSIONS WHICH DETRACT FROM MAIN PURPOSES OF
VARIOUS UN MEETINGS.

- (B) MINISTRY AGREES ON THE DISTINCTION MADE ON THE
TWO LEVELS OF THE PROBLEMS, I.E. (1) ON SUBSTANCE AND
(2) ON GENERAL REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO RESOLUTIONS.

- (C) MINISTRY THEREFORE AGREES WITH WHAT IS NOW
PARAGRAPH 8(D) ON DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE.

- (D) MINISTRY ALSO ENDORSES SUGGESTIONS IN WHAT IS NOW
PARAGRAPH 8(E) O
DEALING WITH GENERAL REFERENCES,
ALTHOUGH IT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CARRY VERY
MANY WESTERN COUNTRIES IN AGREEING TO THIS PROCEDURE.
NEVERTHELESS, MINISTRY BELIEVES THAT OUR SUGGESTED
PROCEDURE COULD SERVE THE USEFUL PURPOSE OF WEARING DOWN
THE GROUP OF 77 IN THEIR PRESENT INSTANCE ON INCLUDING
SUCH REFERENCES IN ALL SORTS OF CONTEXTS. (PARAGRAPHS
8(F) AND (G) WERE NOT IN EARLIER DRAFT, SO EMBASSY OFFICER
WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY
THESE POINTS.)

- (E) MINISTRY'S MESSAGE DID NOT COMMENT ON PARAGRAPH
8(H) SUGGESTING A SINGLE SPOKESMAN IN EXPLAINING
COORDINATED WESTERN COUNTRY VOTES, BUT EMBASSY ASSUMES
THAT MINISTRY WILL CONSIDER THIS.

- (F) MINISTRY THINKS WHAT IS NOW PARAGRAPH 8(I)
SUGGESTING BLANKET STATEMENT IS WORTH A TRY, BUT HAS TWO
PROBLEMS WITH IT: (1) IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO
RECONCILE THE VIEWS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES
IN ONE STATEMENT, E.G. THE VIEWS OF SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH
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AS NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK WITH THOSE OF U.S., UK, JAPAN,
AND FRG (IN FACT DENMARK VOTED "NO" ON CERDU WHILE
JAPAN ONLY ABSTAINED); (2) EVEN WITH SUCH A BLANKET
STATEMENT, SOME "WOBBLERS" MIGHT NOT WISH TO APPLY IT
IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. HENCE MINISTRY BELIEVES WE SHOULD
RELY MAINLY ON FORMULA SUGGESTED IN 8(E) PROVIDED IT FINDS
FAVOR WITH A REASONABLE NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO BLANKET STATEMENT, DEPARTMENT OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT OUR IDEA WAS THAT IT SHOULD BE IN SIMPLE AND GENERAL TERMS -- I.E. TO THE EFFECT THAT ANY SUCH REFERENCES DO NOT CONNOTE CHANGES IN ESTABLISHED POSITIONS, WITHOUT MENTIONING WHAT THESE WERE -- SO THAT IT COULD BE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO COUNTRIES HAVING VARYING DEGREES OF DISSENT FROM THE CERDS AND NIEO RESOLUTIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME OF OUR FRIENDS MIGHT NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A BLANKET STATEMENT, BUT WE WANTED TO GIVE THE IDEA A GOOD TRY IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER A RESPECTABLE NUMBER MIGHT JOIN US, AS IT WOULD MAKE THE WHOLE MATTER MUCH SIMPLER. IN ANY EVENT, AN AGREED VOTING FORMULA PER PARA 8(E) IS NEEDED WITH OR WITHOUT A BLANKET STATEMENT TO REFER TO.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S PURSUING FURTHER DEMARCHE ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION TO CONFIRM OUR POSITION.
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